THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Declaration of new National Highways would be considered only after the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise at present.

(c) and (d) In the 8th Five Year Plan, the State Government of Kerala has requested for the inclusion of four State Roads in the National Highway grid. Action on these proposals is possible only after finalisation of the 8th Plan.

Glut in Rubber Market in Cochin

409. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of a glut in the Rubber market in Cochin due to change in the credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to solve the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no glut in the Rubber market in Cochin. As on 5th July, 1991, the prices were ruling at Rs. 2,115 for RMA-4 grade and Rs. 1,980 for lot rubber per quintal. There is no price fall as compared to the price that prevailed before the announcement of change in the credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India.

Acquisition of Ballistic Missiles by Pakistan

410. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acquisition of an unspecified number of M-11 Chinese ballistic missiles by Pakistan recently has posed threat to India's security;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet any kind of challenge from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government closely monitor all developments impingiug on national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness

Assistance of Private Sector in Public Transport System

411. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the private sector

to enter into construction and maintenance of roads and also to run public transport system as suggested by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The private sector is already participating in many areas of the public transportation system. About 2/3rds of the passenger buses in the country are owned and operated by private operators. The private construction companies are playing a dominant role in undertaking road and bridge construction projects, funded by Government. Further ways of associating private sector with the financing of road construction are being examined by Government.

(c) Does not arise.

National Highways in Maharashtra

412. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to widen and develop National Highways passing through Maharashtra especially in backward region of Western Maharashtra, during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and works are sanctioned keeping in view the traffic intensity, existing conditions of the National Highways, inter se priority on all-India basis and availability of funds. Accordingly for Maharashtra works costing Rs. 325.45 crores including works costing Rs. 53.10 crores in Western Maharashtra have been included in the Annual Plan of works to be sanctioned during 1991-92. Such Annual Plan for 1992-93 is yet to be prepared.

[*Translation*]

Implementation of One-Rank One Pension Scheme to Ex-Servicemen

413. PROF. PREM DHUMAL :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the one-rank, one-pension scheme for the ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) A scheme for the grant of an ad-hoc exgratia increase in pension to Armed forces personnel below officer rank who retired before 1-1-1986 was approved by the Government on 1-11-90. The next Government considered the matter but deferred decision on the issue. The entire matter shall